

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting messages between a plurality of bus users, each of which is connected with a communication bus for exchanging messages, ~~and including a diagnostic device for diagnosing a disturbance of the communication bus~~, the method comprising the acts of:

conducting a message transmission between ~~two of the plurality of~~ first and second bus users in a normal operation mode; and

for diagnosing the message transmission, operating in a diagnostic operating mode ~~which that~~ that differs from a the normal operation mode [[,]] and includes the acts of:

requesting, asking ~~by the a~~ by the a diagnostic device uninvolved in the message transmission during the normal operation mode, ~~a~~ the second bus user ~~receiving the message to output said message~~ on the communication bus a message intended for the second bus user in the message transmission;

detecting a disturbance when the diagnostic device does not receive the message or receives a damaged message from the second bus user via the communication bus; and

determining, by the diagnostic device, whether a source of the disturbance is in the first bus user or in the second bus user.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the acts of:

in the diagnostic operating mode, causing a third bus user, different from the first and second bus users, to receive the message intended for the second bus user when the second bus user does not output a message or outputs a damaged message; and

~~reading-out a status of the message~~ comparing message statuses from the three bus users to determine the source of a disturbance.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein messages are transmitted between more than two bus users, the method further comprising the act of reading-out the status of the message for all bus users participating in the message transmission in an operating mode differing from the normal operation.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the conducting includes conducting a message transmission from the first bus user to a plurality of bus users, and wherein the comparing includes comparing ~~messages are transmitted between more than two bus users, the method further comprising the act of reading-out the status of the message~~ statuses for all bus

users participating in the message transmission in an operating mode differing from the normal operation.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the bus users participating in the message transmission are read-out of a table.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the bus users participating in the message transmission are read-out of a table.

7. (Currently amended) A diagnostic method for messages transmitted between first and second bus users, in which said bus users are each linked with a communication bus for purposes of exchanging messages and with a diagnostic device for detecting a failure of the communication bus, ~~wherein~~ the method comprising:

in a diagnostic operation mode that is different from a normal operation mode, requesting, a first bus user receiving a message is requested by the diagnostic device, the second bus user to output said message to the communication bus a message intended for transmission from the first bus user to the second bus user during the normal operation mode, thereby diagnosing the message transmission ~~between two bus users, wherein the diagnostic device is~~ uninvolved in the intended message transmission during the normal operation mode.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising: wherein

in the diagnostic operation mode, causing a third bus user ~~is caused~~ to receive the message[[,]]; and ~~further wherein a status of the message is read out from each of the three bus users~~

comparing message statuses from each of the three bus users to determine a source of the failure.

9. (New) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

determining the source of the fault to be in the first bus user when the message statuses from the second and third bus users are the same; and

determining the source of the fault to be in the second bus user when the message statuses from the second and third bus users are different.

10. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the comparing comprises:

determining that the source of the fault is in the first bus user when the message statuses from the second and third bus users are the same; and

determining that the source of the fault is in the second bus user when the message statuses of the second and third bus users are different.